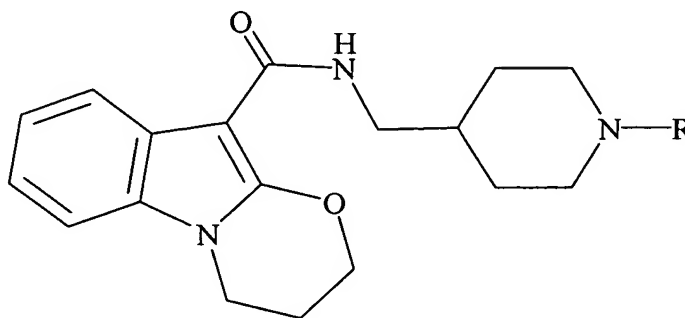


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of~~ A method for the treatment of neuropathic pain in a subject in need thereof comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutical composition in an amount sufficient to treat neuropathic pain wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises a compound of formula I:



wherein

R is H, a linear or branched alkyl chain having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms or an arylalkyl group,

and of the acid addition salts thereof with pharmaceutically acceptable organic or inorganic acids,

~~to prepare a pharmaceutical composition active in the treatment of neuropathic pain.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~[[Use]]~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein R is an arylalkyl group where the alkyl moiety has from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~[[Use]]~~ The method according to claim 1, ~~or 2,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ wherein R is an arylalkyl group where the aryl moiety is a phenyl or naphthyl ring.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~[[Use]]~~ The method according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein R is an n-butyl group.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~[[Use]]~~ The method according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein R is a cyclohexyl group.